

## Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation Environmental Assessment

**Operator:** Oasis Petroleum North America LLC  
**Well Name/Number:** Stilt Federal 2658 11-27H  
**Location:** NW NW Section 27 T26N R58E  
**County:** Richland, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** Wildcat

### Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 30-40 days drilling time.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): Triple derrick drilling rig to drill a single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation test, 19,898' MD/10,472' TVD.

Possible H<sub>2</sub>S gas production: Slight H<sub>2</sub>S possible.

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area nearby.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)

☒ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Existing pipeline for H<sub>2</sub>S gas in the area.

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### Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: Yes to oil based invert drilling fluids for intermediate casing hole. Horizontal hole will be drilled with saltwater. Surface casing hole will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud system.

High water table: No high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, closest drainage is an unnamed ephemeral tributary drainage to Otis Creek which is a tributary to the Missouri River, about 1/4 of a mile to the west and about 3/8 of a mile to the northeast are the unnamed ephemeral drainages and the Missouri River is about 5 miles to the northwest from this location. Within Otis Creek are stock ponds.

Water well contamination: No, closest water wells are about 5/8 of a mile to the northwest and about 7/8 of a mile to the south from this location. Depth of these water wells are from 100' to 290'. This proposed oil well will be drilled with freshwater and freshwater mud to 2,290' and steel surface casing will be run and cemented to surface to protect groundwater.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy silty clay soils.

Class I stream drainage: No, Class I stream drainages.

Mitigation:

☒ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☐ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: 2,290' surface casing will be drilled with freshwater, steel casing will be run to 2,290' and cemented back to surface, to protect freshwater zones in adjacent water wells. Also, covering Fox Hills aquifer. Adequate surface casing and BOP equipment to prevent problems.

## Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: Crossing only ephemeral drainages.

High erosion potential: Yes, location will require a moderate cut of up to 19.3' and a moderate fill of up to 18.0', required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location to be restored after drilling, if nonproductive. If productive unused portion of this drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: Yes, a large well site 430'X310'.

Damage to improvements: Slight surface use appears to be grassland.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

☐ Exception location requested

☒ Stockpile topsoil

☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

☒ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

☒ Other Requires DEQ General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity, under ARM 17.30.1102(28).

Comments: Access will be over existing county gravel road and existing lease road. New access road will be built into this location off the existing lease road, about 640' into this location. Oil based invert drilling fluids will be recycled. Completion fluids will hauled to a commercial Class II disposal. Cuttings and solids will be buried/solidified on site in the lined reserve pit. The pit will be allowed to dry and the pit backfilled. No concerns.

## Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Nearest residence is about 1.125 of a mile to the south and 1.25 miles to the west from this location.

Possibility of H2S: Slight.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Triple drilling rig 30 to 40 days drilling time.

Mitigation:

☒ Proper BOP equipment

☐ Topographic sound barriers

☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Adequate surface casing cemented to surface with working BOP stack should mitigate any problems.

## Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: None identified.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species: Species identified as threatened or endangered are the Pallid Sturgeon, Interior Lease Tern, Whooping Crane and Piping Plover. Candidate species is the Sprague's Pipit and the Greater Sage Grouse. NH tracker website indicates species of concern are the Great Blue Heron, Piping Plover and Least Tern. These birds are associated with live water and riparian forests. This location is not close to live water and riparian forest.

Mitigation:

- ☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
- ☐ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)
- ☐ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Private surface grassland. No concerns.

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### **Historical/Cultural/Paleontological**

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites: None identified.

Mitigation

- ☐ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
- ☐ other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: Private surface grassland. No concerns.

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### **Social/Economic**

(possible concerns)

- ☐ Substantial effect on tax base
- ☐ Create demand for new governmental services
- ☐ Population increase or relocation

Comments: Wildcat well. No concerns

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### **Remarks or Special Concerns for this site**

An exploratory single lateral horizontal Bakken Formation test, 19,898'MD/10,472'TVD.

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### **Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects**

No long term impacts expected, some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated.

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I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): /s/Steven Sasaki

(title:) Chief Field Inspector

Date: April 7, 2011

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website

(Name and Agency)

Richland County water wells  
(subject discussed)  
April 7, 2011  
(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website  
(Name and Agency)  
ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA  
COUNTIES, Richland County, Montana  
(subject discussed)  
April 7, 2011

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website  
(Name and Agency)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, Location T26N R58E  
(subject discussed)

April 7, 2011  
(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:  
Inspection date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_  
Others present during inspection: \_\_\_\_\_